

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (currently amended) A football ~~configured for use in competitive play~~
2 ~~and for grasping by a user's hand, the football comprising:~~
3 a casing having a laced region; and
4 a an outwardly extending lacing coupled to the laced region of the
5 casing, the lacing having an exposed surface, at least a portion of the exposed surface
6 of the lacing having a pebbled texture that is highly grippable when directly contacted by
7 a user's hand, the football being configured for use in competitive play.

1 2. (original) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the entire exposed surface
2 of the lacing includes the pebbled texture.

1 3. (original) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the pebbled texture
2 comprises a plurality of spaced apart pebble-like projections.

1 4. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections consist of any combination of at least two shapes selected from the group
3 consisting of irregularly shaped pebble-like projections, hemi-spherically shaped
4 projections, generally oval shaped projections, generally triangular shaped projections,
5 generally square shaped projections, generally rectangular shaped projections,
6 generally diamond shaped projections, generally pentagon-shaped projections, other
7 polygonal shaped projections, conical projections, frustoconical projections, cylindrical
8 projections, pyramid-shaped projections, and cubic projections.

1 5. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 are arranged in a generally evenly spaced pattern across at least a portion of the
3 exposed surface.

1 6. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 are randomly arranged across at least a portion of the exposed surface.

1 7. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 are generally of equal size.

1 8. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality of projections
2 include projections of two or more different sizes.

1 9. (original) The game ball of claim 3, wherein each of the pebble-like
2 projections has a maximum length and a maximum width, and wherein the maximum
3 length and the maximum width define an aspect ratio of within 0.2 and 5.0.

1 10. (original) The game ball of claim 9, wherein the aspect ratio is within
2 0.33 and 3.0.

1 11. (original) The game ball of claim 4 wherein the lacing includes at least
2 one longitudinally extending segment and a plurality of transversely extending
3 segments, wherein the plurality of projections on the longitudinally extending segment
4 have a first shape, and wherein the plurality of projections on the transversely
5 extending segment have a second shape.

1 12. (original) The game ball of claim 4, wherein the entire exposed surface
2 of the lacing includes a plurality of pebble-like projections.

1 13. (original) The game ball of claim 4, wherein the lacing further
2 comprises an inner substrate and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer includes the
3 exposed surface, and wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more materials
4 selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane
5 impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, a metal wire,
6 a plastic, a vinyl, a polymer, a latex, a rope, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

1 14. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 13 wherein the outer
2 layer is made of an outer material selected from the group consisting of a wet process
3 polyurethane, a dry process polyurethane, a coagulated polyurethane, a
4 polyvinylchloride foam, a rubber, a polymeric material, an elastomeric material, and a
5 combination thereof.

1 Claims 15-50 are canceled.

1 51. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are irregularly shaped pebble-like projections.

1 52. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are hemi-spherically shaped projections.

1 53. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are generally oval shaped projections.

1 54. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are generally triangular shaped projections.

1 55. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are generally square shaped projections.

1 56. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are generally rectangular shaped projections.

1 57. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are generally diamond shaped projections.

1 58. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are generally pentagon-shaped projections.

1 59. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are polygonal shaped projections.

1 60. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are conical projections.

1 61. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are frustoconical projections.

1 62. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are cylindrical projections.

1 63. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are pyramid-shaped projections.

1 64. (previously presented) The game ball of claim 3, wherein the plurality
2 of projections are cubic projections